



# THE GARZETTE



MARCH 1998

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

## The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



This column marks the beginning of my second term as President of **GARS** and I must say that I'm really looking forward to this year. I thoroughly enjoyed my first year as President and it was because of the great support that I received from the executive committee, committee chairmen, and the membership. I've said over and over during my first term that no one person makes the club what it is and no one person can direct a club the size of ours. Without the help of all of you my job as President would be extremely difficult and pretty near impossible.

Now that the elections have been held we have some changes in the makeup of the executive committee and in some of the committee chairmen. Marty Fowler, KE4MLH is our new Vice President, replacing Larry Osborne, WT4XX who steps down after serving four terms. John Sokol, K9AOK is the new **GARS** secretary replacing Bill Ahls, KE4EIH who steps down after serving two terms. The new Activities Manager is Kevin McClure, KF4HFN taking over from Marty, KE4MLH, who is our new VP after serving two terms as Activities Manager. Randy Drescher, K4HS is stay-

ing on as the **GARS** Treasurer and is starting his third term in office. Please join me in congratulation all of the members of the executive committee as we start a new year in office.

We will need to find a replacement for John, K9AOK as Public Relations Chairman since he has been elected as Secretary. If you're interested in the job, please give me a call or if you'd like some information about what the job entails give John or me a call. With Spring approaching we will be getting busy with lots of activities and new classes and we will need to get this position filled ASAP.

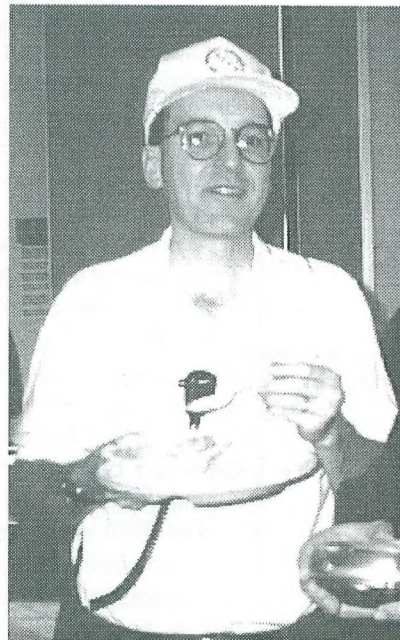
Suzanne Farr has agreed to chair the Christmas Party Committee once again this year. Tammy Sokol and Nova Whatley, KF4HLG have volunteered to assist Suzanne with the committee and I'm sure that Suzanne would welcome more help. Please give her a call to volunteer. We will be looking for a new location for the party this year. When Marty, KE4MLH went to reserve the rooms for this year we were informed that as of September 1 the Falcon Inn will be closing. If you have an idea for a place for the party

*Continued on page 8*

## 1998 Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society Elections Over

Each position won by a landslide!

President	Ike Chapman	KE4GYM
Vice President	Marty Fowler	KE4MLH
Secretary	John Sokol	K9AOK
Treasurer	Randy Drescher	K4HS
Activities Mgr.	Kevin McClure	KF4HFN



### TECH-FEST 98

**Kevin Berry  
KF4RMA**  
did a great job as  
Chairman  
coordinating the  
whole event.  
It was a huge  
Success  
Way to go  
Kevin!!

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## The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

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Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer.

**Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.**

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Rita Biddle, KE4WVV assists each month with the labels, postage and other Garzette preparations.

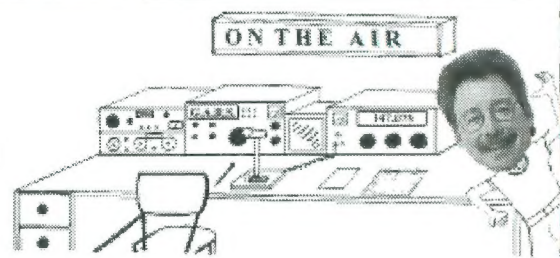
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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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## On The Air with Gene Gach KF4NOG by

### Karl Phillips, K4GZZ



This month in On The Air, I am featuring a relatively new member of the GARS family. Gene is a guy that I have come to get to know rather well in the last two months, both on and off the air.

Gene was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania. I thought right out of the starting gate, Gene was trying to "pull my coax" by telling me he was from two different states, so I begged him to make up his mind. Well, it turned out that my geography was not all that good and Gene let me know that he was indeed born in a town in Pennsylvania called Indiana.

He also let me know that Jimmy Stewart was born there too, so we now know of two famous people from that town. Gene only lived there for one year and his parents relocated to Evansville, Indiana where Gene attended Rex Mundi High School. After high school he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Memphis learning the art of electronics as an Electronics Technician. Gene was then sent to Hawaii, but when he got there they told him not to unpack because he would only be there one day and then he would be off to Adak, Alaska for a 6 month tour of duty. Pretty cruel, huh? I guess they made up for it though because they sent Gene on back to Hawaii after his stay in Alaska in 1967.

After that he was stationed in Okinawa in 1968 and worked in submarine warfare and in electronics. Later in 1968, Gene was honorably discharged. Gene then returned to Evansville and attended the University of Evansville and majored in Production Management. In 1970, while in college he worked at Anchor Industries and in 1971 got a job at WTVW-TV as a sales coordinator tracking commercial time sold by the sales representatives that worked at the station. He graduated from the University of Evansville in 1976 and worked on his parents farm and did odd jobs.

In 1981, Gene was transferred to Atlanta

and went to work for Crain-Atlanta working on software for television and radio stations. He still works there and now does the ticketing and home office systems for theater chains.

Gene's introduction to ham radio goes back to 1988 when his brother Joe got his ticket as N9PIT. Joe lives in Princeton, Indiana and once Gene got his ticket, he really gave Joe the "business" about having 50 feet of tower laying on the ground in his backyard. Gene encouraged Joe to get the tower up in the air, letting Joe know in no uncertain terms that was what the tower was for in the first place !!! Joe was instrumental in getting Gene interested in ham radio and gave Gene books to get him started. Gene looked at them but later just put them in his garage and didn't give them too much thought. But, one day while cleaning out the garage to get ready for his daughter Jody's wedding, Gene came across the books again and this time decided it was time to get serious and get his ticket. He went to HRO after the wedding (a great place to hang out after vows are exchanged) and also went to Radio Shack to pick up a copy of Look Who's Talking. When he returned to HRO, someone mentioned Howie - W4NVF as a good person to contact about taking the test. Gene studied and in November of 1996, he took and successfully passed the no code test and became KF4NOG. In January 1997 he took the 5 wpm code test and became a tech plus. In March he passed his theory and 13 wpm code as became a General.

When Gene went on the air as a technician his first contacts were with Mike - KF4MZI and Carlton - WA4ZUW. Gene made his first HF contact one week after becoming a general with KD9CCK on 40 meters CW. Gene is sort of a

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**Ares**  
**SkyWarn**  
 By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z  
 Gwinnett Co. E.C.



When a tornado is coming, you have only a short amount of time to make life-or-death decisions. Advanced planning and quick response are the keys to surviving a tornado.

**BEFORE:** Conduct tornado drills each tornado season. Designate an area in the home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat. Discuss with the family members the difference between a "tornado watch" and a "tornado warning." Have disaster supplies on hand. Develop an emergency communication plan in case family members are separated from one another. The tornado may develop during the day while you're at work, school or shopping and you need to create a meeting place to get together. (Good reason to have all family members licensed as hams huh!) One suggestion would be to designate an out of state relative to serve as the "family contact." Make sure everyone in your family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person. The reason for an out of state relative is that after a disaster it is often easier to call long distance than locally during this time.

Now to define tornado watch and warning. These are issued by the National Weather Service. A tornado watch is when the weather conditions exist that are favorable for the development of tornado. You learned about those conditions in our SKYWARN class. A tornado warning is when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. The danger is very serious and everyone should go to a safe place and use the battery powered radio you stored away for this occasion and tune in to a local station for weather related information.

**DURING A STORM:** When at home, go at once to the basement, storm cellar, or the lowest level of the building.

If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Get away from the windows and go to the center of the room (corners tend to draw debris). If there is heavy furniture (desk, table, etc.) get under it and hold on to it. Use arms to protect head and neck. If you live in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere, providing you have time to do this.

When at work or school do same as above but avoid places with wide roof spans such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways, or shopping malls. If outdoors, get inside a building if possible. If not possible, lie in a ditch or low-lying area. Crouch near a strong building if you can't get inside of it. While in a lying position, be aware of possible flooding from heavy rains or damaged dams.

Never try to outdrive a tornado. Tornado's can change direction quickly and can lift up a car and toss it through the air. Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building. If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Again, be aware of possible flooding.

**AFTER A STORM:** Help injured or trapped persons. Give first aid if appropriate. Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Turn on radio or tv to get the latest emergency information. Stay out of damaged buildings and return your home only when authorities say it's safe. Use the telephone only for emergency calls. Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave any building where you smell gas or other chemical fumes. Take pictures of the damage to your home and property for insurance purposes.

As a final note, remember to always help your neighbors who may re-

quire special assistance (infants, elderly, and people with disabilities). This information was taken from the S. E. Louisiana ARES web page. You may want to take a look at their page. It contains quite a bit of information that will be of interest to individuals involved with emergency communications. The URL is [www.ares.org/sela/index.htm](http://www.ares.org/sela/index.htm). Give it a try! See ya next month.

KM4Z Lowry Rouse  
 Gwinnett Co. E.C.

## March Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, WU4H

- 1 KE4GYM Ike Chapman
- 1 KE4PLW Evelyn Whalen
- 1 WU4H Jack Herndon
- 2 KA5MTE Steven Rowe
- 5 KJ6OJ Mac McCluer
- 5 W4SDGHomer Blincoe
- 6 Suzanne Farr
- 6 KB4WHSteve Cain
- 7 AF4CF James McGinty
- 8 KF4CNE Gail Beam
- 8 KR4RG Paul Gericke
- 10 WW4BB Bill Brandon
- 11 KF4VBR Robert Tyler
- 15 KF4UOC Anna Torres
- 17 KF4OKA Gordon Anthony
- 18 KE4VWN James O'Kelley
- 18 WA4IZI Stan McDonald
- 22 KE4MLH Marty Fowler
- 23 WB4PPW Jesse Knight
- 24 KD4RFK Rick Patchin
- 24 W4WSBTom Henderson
- 25 W4OMRCharles Buckels
- 25 WV4O Ken McKinney
- 26 K4WZ Ron Todd
- 26 KE4UNG Bobby Ricchiuti
- 27 KB4BBH Herb Schall
- 27 KE4ZQE Paul Phipps
- 28 AD4LY Stephen Burel
- 28 K3TD Tad Danley
- 28 KE4DYX Vincent Hrabosky
- 29 KF4QAA Kathryn Hayes



## THANKS

from John Sokol, K9AOK

I would like to thank the GARS President, Ike Chapman, for his insight in keeping me in touch with the selection process. In as much as I would have liked to see a true election, with multiple candidates, I could not see the great club that we have be limited by not having a secretary. I have acted in what I feel is the best interests of the club, and hope I can do the job of my predecessor, Bill Ahls, in the same fashion you, the club membership, are used to. Bill, you have done a great job these past few years, and have left mighty big shoes to fill.

I want to thank the entire GARS membership for their trust in me to do the job in front of me. I will put forth every effort and make this the executive board each and every one of you can be proud of.

Thank you,  
73 de K9AOK

## TECH FEST FOOD 98



## HIGH TECH HERE TO STAY?

PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA — Announcing the new Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge device (BOOK.) It's a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use even a child can operate it.

Just lift its cover. Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere — even sitting in an armchair by the fire — yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disk.

Here's how it works: Each BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable,) each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. These pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a "binder" which keeps sheets in their correct sequence. By using both sides of each sheet, manufactures are able to cut costs in half.

Each sheet of paper is scanned optically and registers information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. The BOOK may be taken up at anytime and used by merely opening it. The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet and move forward or backwards as you wish. Most come with an "index" feature which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

An optional "BOOKmark" accessory allows you to open the BOOK to the exact place you left in a previous session — even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufactures.

Portable, durable and affordable, the BOOK is the entertainment wave of the future. Many new titles are expected soon due to the surge in popularity of its programming tool, the Portable Erasable Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylus. The End!

If you smell something that is not roses, then you're right on track. For your April Fools Reading Pleasure. -Ed

## GARS

### Officers

1998-1999

#### President

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

#### Vice President

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH (770)682-5789

#### Secretary

John Sokol, KE4KPV (770)931-3235

#### Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

#### Activities Manager

Kevin McClure, KF4HFN (770) 266-6475

## Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

## COMMITTEES

### Membership Chairman

Jack Herndon, WU4H (770)995-0438

### Publicity Chairman

Open

### Newsletter Editor

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### License Trustee

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### Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

### Tech Fest

Kevin Berry, KF4RMA

### TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

### Contest Manager

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

### Net Manager

Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD (770) 614-8750

### CW Net Manager

Gene Gach, KF4NOG (770) 925-0186

### Rookie Radio

Carter Wood, KF4HLF (770) 923-9667

### Field Day

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

### Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (770)449-0369

### Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, WW4BB (770)985-8125

### Apparel Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-3069

### Christmas Party Chairman

Suzanne Farr, (770)279-8711

### Digital Radio Chairman

John Farr, KD6CLO (770)279-8711

### HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Don Ennest, KS4WR (770)923-4851

### DXCC Checker

Frank Deak, AF4Y (770)978-6546

♦♦♦



## Icom IC-T2A Reviewed

Ed Hill, KE4JCG

The Icom IC-T2A HT gives the newcomer no clue how to get things started. Once you learn the secret, however several powerful features are available, that make repeater use and phone patch use much easier.

If you hate reading manuals the first time you operate something, don't buy this HT. Study the manual for an hour to learn the basics and all becomes easy. The GUIDE key(#) tells you what any other key does, if you forget. This is very helpful.

The HT offers 4.5 watts HI/ 1 watt LOW. The IC-T2A receives 135 MHz to 173 MHz. But you can only transmit in the 2 meter HAM band. The wide RX range may cause intermod rejection to suffer but I have not tested this.

You can run off 8 NI-CAD/alkaline AA cells OR a NI-CAD rechargeable pack. Frequency, offset, PL tone freq, duplex+/- or simplex, CTCSS tone squelch, are all stored in any combination in 40 memories. PLUS you get 10 NOAA weather frequencies pre-programmed in 10 extra memory channels, a call channel memory and 2 extra memory channels to set upper and lower scan limits. This HT scans by frequency or channels that you program.

The T2A's Auto-Repeater function sets the correct offset + or - for a new repeater frequency. Travelling to new cities, you'll appreciate the tone decoder scan which listens to transmissions to a repeater and determines the correct PL tone for the repeater. Phone patch is made easier by five DTMF-autodial memories and a redial key. The redial and autodialers all activate the TX

switch and transmit access codes and phone numbers with one touch of the dial key.

This model HT once made you sound like you had a bucket over your head because of a mic placement problem when introduced in Fall of 1997. Fortunately ICOM has now fixed the mic position. The RX audio is quite loud, and transmit signal reports show good quality and clarity. The stock 7" BNC-mount antenna is better than most rubber ducks but I'll be adding a quarter-wave flexible antenna to mine. HT's always work better with a longer antenna.



One quirk of the T2A is that you can't run it directly off of external DC. The external power jack only charges the batteries. However, this is outweighed by the convenience of walking into any supermarket, or convenience store and

buying 8 alkaline AA cells anywhere in the U.S.

So buying enough Ni-Cad AA cells for the next multi-day power outage or hiking trip is cheaper than buying the equivalent number of \$50 ICOM Ni-Cad battery packs. Battery life with the 8 AA pack or the one-piece Ni-Cad pack is the same, roughly 8 to 10 hours if you mostly listen, less if you transmit alot.

An auto cigar-lighter charger and drop-in charger stand are options. The wall charger comes standard and all charge the AA or pack batteries while in the HT. The AA batteries are also easily removed to be placed in an external charger. The design of the snap-on-back battery packs would make it easy for Maha or another company to design a replacement back that allows external DC power from any source.

Overall this is a durable HT with long battery life, thanks to an adjustable battery save circuit. The battery-saver off mode allows packet use. The frame is aluminum with a tough one-piece polycarbonate case. Its easy to believe Icom's claim to mil-spec. A friend in Virginia dropped his IC-T2A on concrete with no damage.

The 17 customizable features include; Hi/Lo power, Scan on/off, 5 Auto-Dial memories, Re-Dial, Keyboard lock, Light on/off, VFO/memory, Tone on/off, Tone decode scan, tone squelch, squelch level, WX channel, duplex +/-, write to memory and call channel. Some of these features can be pre-programmed in the special start up mode or you can assign eight of these functions to eight separate keys in any combination you choose. You can program these on the DTMF keypad On the HT's front or use the free ICOM HT to PC cloning software. The salesperson didn't know about the free software offer until I showed him a print-out from the Icom web pages.

The windows based software and cloning cable makes setting up your T2A easier. The software can copy the current HT frequency memories and configuration to a PC file, allow you to edit or change the HT setup file, then you can send all the new frequencies and settings back to the HT. I have one file of frequencies for Atlanta area and another for Florida repeater frequencies for trips. The software transfers new frequencies and keypad assignments in under ten seconds, but the Cloning cable sometimes has to be held all the way into the earphone/data jack to work properly.

The Icom engineers get plus marks for overall design, modern features, software control of the HT and ease of use. Icom's choice not to allow external DC power, however, could be restrictive for some users. Overall I rate the Icom T2A as a good buy at \$159 to \$169, and it offers good power and features at this price level.





## Ham Radio Legal Service Formed

from Amateur Radio  
Newsline #1072

New hope for hams and radio clubs plagued by malicious interference and harassment from others who use foul language on the air. An ARRL Director is forming a new legal service aimed at combating this growing problem. But its not an ARRL project.

Joe Falcone, N8TI listened to amateur radio and doesn't like what he hears.

"Apparently certain people believe that they can say whatever they want over Amateur Radio (that is injurious to others). The problem is that the average ham doesn't have resources to start a law suit that's going to cost \$20,000 to \$30,000." Falcone

So Falcone, Director of the ARRL's Great Lakes Division, says he will form a nonprofit organization called the Amateur Radio Legal Aid Association. Its purpose: to provide support for amateurs threatened by other hams who use amateur radio to commit the offenses.

Falcone, speaking with RAIN's Hap Holly, KC9RP, says the association will tackle what many hams have long considered a major problem, and that's the failure by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to act on complaints involving amateur radio.

"I actually have heard of death threats, threats of arson and when I would talk to (the affected) people.

I was in shock — would ask 'have you gone to the police?' The individuals would say: '...yes, we have gone to the police, but the police won't act on it and the FBI won't act on it. The reason (that law enforcement gives) is if a person a 1,000 miles away — or 2,000 miles away makes a threat over Amateur Radio, the police and the FBI don't seem to take it seriously.'

This got me extremely upset and I asked myself: 'well, what would I do if somebody did this to me?'" Falcone The Association will have no connection to

the ARRL.

Falcone says it will seek donations of time from lawyers and law students, as well as donations from the public. The group may eventually be able to help hams who are victims of radio-borne offenses to take legal action on their own:

"If such lawsuits were brought against these individuals (who harass others on the air), then this, in and of itself would stop this type of activity. The reason is that when someone gets hit with a lawsuit in a federal or state court, and they have to drain their savings to defend it, they are not going to go on doing that (activity). And of course, if they disobey a civil injunction, they can be thrown in jail." Falcone

Falcone says the association will conduct research to help hams assess legal options available to them. Ultimately, he hopes the group might even be able to provide financial aid to help bring clear cases of injustice involving amateur radio into the courtroom.

You can hear the complete interview with ARRL Director Joe Falcone, N8TI and learn more of his plans by calling the RAIN Report. That's the new name for the old RAIN Dial-Up and is still at area code (847) 827-RAIN.

(Via Newsline, RAIN)

## Indecent Language Ham Recordings Wanted

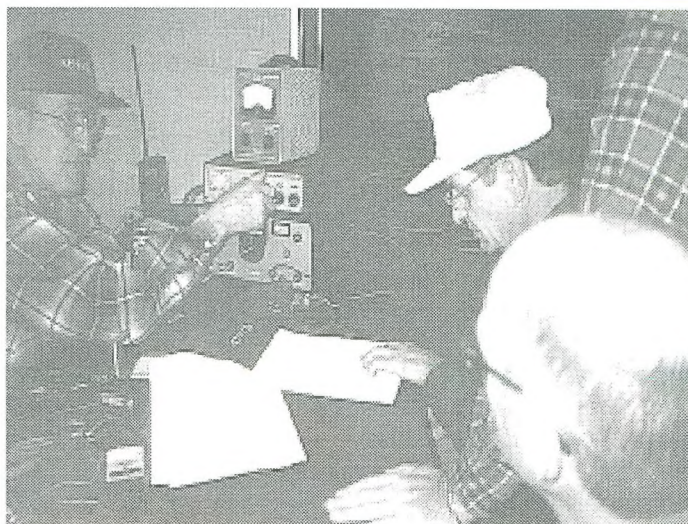
From NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #1063 - 12/26/97 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE

A new ARRL Director who has vowed to take hams who use indecent language off of the amateur bands says that he wants tape recordings of alleged offenders sent directly to him. Joe Falcone, N8TI says that he will use the recordings as proof to the FCC that the problem is nationwide in scope.

Specifically, N8TI is looking for good quality off-air cassette tape recordings that clearly demonstrate that a violation has taken place. The audio quality must be good enough so that anyone hearing the tape will recognize the language being used without the need to replay it a second or third time. This means using a direct connection to your transceiver or receiver.

Also, make certain to label the tape with the alleged offender's name. Include the location the transmission was recorded, the operating frequency of the station, the date, time of day and the name of the person who recorded it. Send these tapes to:

Joe Falcone, N8TI  
9614 Arden Ave.  
Livonia, Michigan  
48150



TECH-FEST98  
Howie(W4NVF)  
demonstrating  
some tuning  
procedures to  
Gene(KF4NOG).  
A similar picture  
to this made it in  
this weeks ARRL  
Newsletter.



## February Meeting Minutes

by Bill Ahls, KE4EIH - Secretary

Elected officers in attendance: President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Vice President Larry Osborne, WT4XX; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer, Randy Drescher, K4HS, and Activities Manager, Marty Fowler, KE4MLH.

President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, opened the February 19, 1998, meeting at approximately 7:40 PM at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Introductions were made by about 63 attendees.

The Kennel Club Dog Show was coordinated by Marty this January. August 21 to 23 will be the next time volunteers will be needed for this worthwhile event and fund maker for GARS. All the previous volunteers were recognized for their hard work.

Ike opened the business portion of the meeting, and made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as presented in the Garzette. The Treasurer report was approved as presented by Randy. The current balance in the GARS bank account is about \$3,900.

Elections were held tonight. Nominations were reopened and after no nominations for Secretary, John Sokol, K9AOK, intentions were read. The final slate was: for President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, for Vice-President Marty, KE4MLH, for Secretary John Sokol, K9AOK, and for Activities Manager Kevin McClure, KF4HFN. The new officers were elected by the membership present with unanimous vote.

The GARZETTE needs a new printer to publish the newsletter and some ideas were discussed. Any suggested will be welcome by our editor, Joe Biddle, AD4PZ. (Printer found -Ed)

Walton County now has a confusing tower ordinance. David Phelps, KD4HLI, presented the details of towers only in the B-2 zoning however, an-

tennas are fine for any other structure. In light of the loose ordinance, hams need to keep their ears open for resolution and changes. GARS will be posting news as it develops.

Membership Committee Chair Jack Herndon, WU4H, presented 8 applicants for membership in GARS. Motions were made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new members of GARS are: Amado Oviedo, KF4VQB; Cora Salvino, no call; Jesse Hein, KE4FZS; Rich Hein, KF4GSS; Jose Puga, KF4VSH; Don Deyton, KF4CU; Frank Niagro, WA3YFZ; and Robert Varone, WA4ETN.

Field Day band captains were introduced and Mark Kozma, KD3GC, said GARS was on track for this year's field day. New this year will be a Can-A-Thon to be donated to an organization or pantry to help folks in need.

Six meter Repeater Status. The fund has about \$300 to date. This fund will raise 75% of the costs and the 25% will come out of the general budget. A raffle for a wall hanging will happen about field day. Other donations are welcome.

Two meter and 440 repeaters are doing fine. Eddie Foust, WD4JEM, needs a bus wiring volunteer, and a second volunteer to build a simple wood rack to hold batteries at the Snellville site. Eddie announced the next Fox hunt will leave the Steak and Shake at 9:00 AM March 14. This is a mileage hunt and teams of two are recommended. As provided for in our FCC regulations for the ham license, the War Powers Act may go in to effect, and Hams would go off the air for possible duration of Iraq military activities.

Other needs or thanks. GARS is looking to replace the Publicity Chair as John is now Secretary. The Christmas party will not be at the Falcon Inn as it is closing. Ideas for a new location should be directed to Suzanne Farr. Volunteer help

is welcome for the party. A plaque was presented to Larry Osborne for his four years of service to GARS as Vice President. Thank you Larry. Special Service Awards were presented to GARS members not at the original Christmas party presentation. Ad Wirth, N2BSG, won the HRO gift certificate door prize. Thanks to all the teachers of the Ham classes completed and in progress. Win Jackson, N1TWX, had a General class for one student that was not canceled. Thanks Win. A new General class question pool goes into effect this June. April 14 is the next General class.

There being no other business, President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, thanked all in attendance, and appropriately adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.



### Check It Out A New Net

I want to inform everyone of a 10 meter traders net that will be starting Tuesday, Feb 3, at 7:30 PM EST. The net will be held on 28.420mhz every Tuesday night. Net control will be Bob Laine, N5SGC, "Southern Georgia Cracker" for more info catch me on 28.420 any night between 7.00 and 10 PM.  
73, Bob

See the complete net listing page 12.  
-Ed

### GARS Electronic Mail List



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to **Jack Herndon, WU4H** and request to be added to the list.

Send to: **WU4H@ix.netcom.com**



## ...The President's Pen

...Continued from page 1

this year, please give Suzanne or myself a call. I know it sounds early to be worrying about this but if we don't book a place soon we will be hard pressed to find a place.

Kevin Berry, KF4RMA who did such a great job of putting together the inaugural GARS Techfest has agreed to chair the effort to organize the 1999 version and will be looking for people to assist him in his efforts. This year's event was a great kick off for this annual event and with some help next year's will be even bigger and better. Here's yet another way to get involved with a GARS activity so give Kevin a call if you'd like to help plan and organize next year's Techfest.

Speaking of activities, make sure to mark your calendar for the events we already know about for this year. Field Day is June 27-28 at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville and we will be activating the W4G callsign for a special event station during the week prior to Field Day as part of what we hope will be Amateur Radio Week in Gwinnett County. August 21, 22, and 23 are the dates for the Fall Cherokee Rose Cluster Dog Show and we will need a contingent of volunteers to staff our efforts for this event. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be operating a special event station at "The Fall Classic" with the good folks out at the EAA Chapter 690 at Briscoe Field. We had a lot of fun with this event last year and I'm looking forward to working with them again. We don't have dates yet for the annual events we support such as the Snellville Days Parade, Suwanee Days Parade, JOTA and other scout activities but as soon as they are available we'll make sure that they are published.

Win Jackson, N1TWX has us on the schedule for new ham classes beginning April 14<sup>th</sup> at Central Gwinnett High School. As of now, we're planning on classes for Technician, General, and Advanced theory and a Morse code class. All of these are dependent upon enough people signing up with goes back to our PR efforts. Win is also investigating the possibilities of arranging for us to team with a local school to get on the SAREX contact schedule.

I think I've consumed about enough time and space for this month. I hope to see

you all at the March meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> and as usual I'll remind you to come visit the weekly GARS Family Breakfast at Steak N' Shake in Lawrenceville every Saturday morning.

### WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS

KF4VQB Amado Oviedo  
Cora Salvino  
KE4FZS Jesse Hein  
KF4GSS Rich Hein  
KF4VSH Jose Puga  
KF4CU Don Deyton  
WA3YFZ Frank Niagro  
WA4ETN Robert Varone



Make sure to get your own GARS Badge. To order, call or email Susan Swiderski, AF4FO

Seen here are a group of Fox Hunters readying themselves for the hunt at last years GARS Picnic Outing.

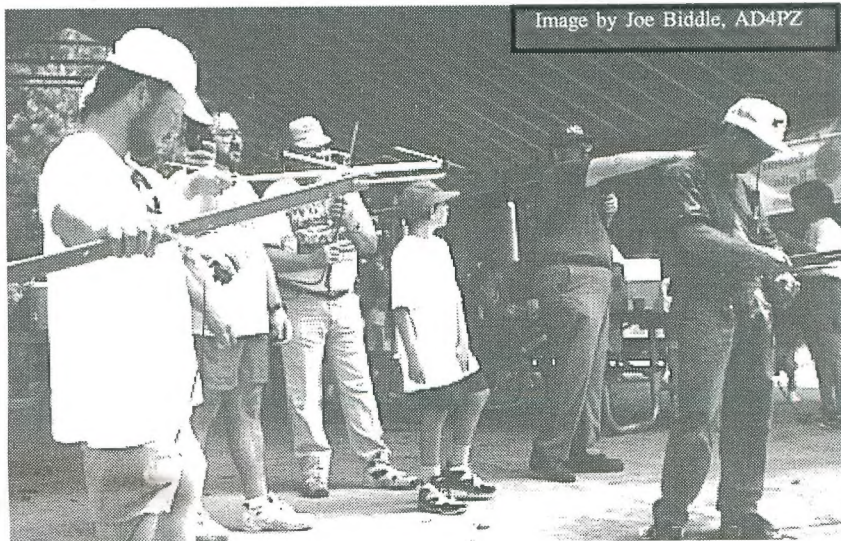


Image by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

## Wisconsin anti mobile law dies in assembly

Amateur Radio Newsline  
#1072 - 02/27/98

Some good news for hams living in Wisconsin. The threat of a new state law that would ban the mobile in motion use of two way radio equipment has ended. At least it has ended for now.

Smoke Signals newsletter editor Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, tells Newsline that Wisconsin Assembly Bill 754 is basically a dead issue. Romelfanger says that he spoke with one of its sponsors and learned that it has not even had a hearing let alone be reported out of committee. Jim says that with only a few days left to this years Wisconsin Assembly session, that there is no way for AB 754 to become Wisconsin state law.

AB 754 was primarily aimed at curbing automobile accidents due to inattentive cellular telephone users. Unfortunately for hams, the wording of the measure encompassed all forms of mobile radio communications. Its backers are expected to try to pass it again in the next Assembly session. Meantime hams now have a chance to build a solid opposition to it or at least demand an exemption for licensed radio amateurs.



## ...On The Air

...Continued from page 2

CW guy and has not made a phone contact yet. Of course, he just got a new HF rig and is still in the process of learning the tune-up procedure, so he should be getting on phone pretty soon.

Gene's other hobbies are working with stained glass and playing the guitar. While doing this interview, Gene began dragging out the instruments. He has an Alvarez and Harmony acoustic guitars, a fiddle, an old dobro that needs a lot of work and a knockoff of a telecaster. He might have another guitar or two...I don't know...there were guitars flying around all over the place !!!

Gene's ham equipment consists of a new Yaesu FT840, a Century 21 cw rig, an MFJ 949E Versa tuner II and a RCI 25watt 10 meter mobile rig. He has a Ringo Ranger, a 2 meter J-Pole, a 10 meter hamstick vertical and a 40 meter dipole. He also has a Kenwood TM-261 mobile rig for 2 meters in his truck.

Gene resides in Lilburn, very close to Howie and I. He has two daughters, Jody who is 26 and Gina who is 22 and a student at Georgia State University.

Gene joined GARS in January 1997 after visiting some of the other clubs in the area and was introduced to the club via Howie's testing classes. Gene likes being a member of the GARS club simply because he felt he belonged from his initial visit. He says the friendliness of the members won him over to join and Gene is becoming quite active in club events. Gene is a regular attendee to our Saturday morning breakfast get togethers and is also a Net Control for our Tuesday

night code nets at 9:00. Gene has now volunteered to be the Novice station band captain for this year's upcoming Field Day.

I have found Gene to be a real friendly and helpful guy and he is always cheerful and courteous. You will hear a very active ham in Gene on the repeater. Be sure and break in and say hello to him. I will be back next month for another feature ham On The Air. Until then, Spring is just around the corner so make those plans to get your wires and aluminum ready for a great season of DXing. CYCLE 23 is well underway!!!!



## WHY ARE WE CALLED HAMS?

BY VE7RGJ  
VIA arrl news

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called HAMS? Well it goes something like this - the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some of the members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision, and they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu, using the first two letters of each name. Early 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from HYALMU and a Mexican ship named Myalmo, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and identified their station as HAM. In the early pioneer and unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequencies and call letters.

Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington, DC and they gave much thought to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity. In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulations Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed that he sent for Mr. Hyman to appear before the committee. Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station, HAM, was built, and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and other requirements which were set up in the bill. The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country that were crying out to be saved

from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally the Bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station, HAM.

That's how it all got started. You can find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity identified the station HAM with amateurs. From that time to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, "Every amateur is a HAM"....

## ARIZONA QRMer TO PAY UP

Hams in Arizona are cheering, now that a man fined by the FCC for malicious interference and other rules violations has finally agreed to pay up. Last year, the FCC fined Timothy Harold Hoffman of Phoenix \$6000 for repeated violations, including interference to Phoenix-area repeaters. The violations called to the Commission's attention by the Arizona Repeater Association's ARRL-sanctioned Local Interference Committee. Hoffman was cited for five specific violations, including transmitting on ham frequencies without a valid operator or station authorization, and willfully interfering with ham radio communications. But, as Lance Halle, KW7LH, tells it, "it took a multitude of long distance calls by committee members, support from FCC personal, input from Congress, and the White House, to get a Notice of Forfeiture and then a federal court judgment" against Hoffman, which he called "one of the major interferers."

"The system does work," Halle said in alerting the ARRL to the October 26 judgment by US District Court judge Robert C. Broomfield. Hoffman will pay off his fine in increments of \$200 per month. "Spread the word! Maybe this will deter some of the would-be interferers." ARRL-News





## NY Taxi Is it legal to operate a ham radio station?

Subject: (Fwd) (Fwd) Amateur Radio Newsline #1072 - 02/27/98

NY Taxi Is it legal to operate a ham radio station on top of an unlicensed station that's bootlegging on a ham band? And, is it breaking any FCC rule to reek havoc on a bootlegger that's using the amateur spectrum for an obvious commercial purpose? Those are the questions that have arisen in New York City between hams who want to rid ten meters of illegal taxi cab dispatch services, but who are divided on how to do it.

Three lines of reason have developed. The first says that you should ignore the existence of the bootlegger. As such, these hams believe that you can operate any mode to which your license permits in the spectrum — and do so right on top of a bootlegging station.

Another faction says — wait a minute. Even though the bootleg taxi dispatch and mobile stations have no legal right to be in a ham band, to operate on top of them is still an act of wanton malicious interference to them.

Finally there are those who agree that the taxi operators are breaking the law by using 10 meters, but they also say that for hams to do anything that interferes with their communications is to violate the cabbies civil rights. They believe that only the federal government has the power to move them off of 10 meters but the content of their communications and their ability to communicate is constitutionally protected.

Which if any of these three views is the right one? That's what we asked the FCC. They say they have turned it over to one of their lawyers to research.



## RS-12 AND OTHERS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MODE-A ACCESS

If you've never operated through any of the ham radio satellites, you're missing a whole dimension of ham radio. It's very easy to get on most satellites, and Mode A is among the simplest of all. In Mode A, you transmit (SSB or CW) on 2 meters and receive the satellite's transponder downlink on 10 meters. Two Russian satellites still offer Mode A as well as other modes.

RS-12 is home to a lot of Mode A activity over North America. To operate Mode A, you transmit between 145.91 and 145.95 MHz on CW or SSB (do not attempt to use FM on these satellites), and listen for your signal between 29.41 and 29.45 MHz. The RS-12 beacon is at 29.408. If you're operating a simplex transceiver working crossband (such as the ICOM IC-706MkII), you'll need a separate receiver to hear your own signal coming back through the satellite. HQ staffer and satellite enthusiast Peter Budnik, KB1HY, says he gets good signal reports on Mode A via RS-12. Even a modest station should have no trouble making contacts through the satellites. He uses AMSAT's InstantTrack software to track satellite passes (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/catalog/software.html> or call 301-589-6062). Keplerian elements also are available from AMSAT's Web site.

"It's a fun bird," says Budnik, adding that a typical pass at a high elevation might last up to 15 minutes and provide a 1500 to 2000 mile footprint on Earth. Passes closer to the horizon can offer much further distances. For instance, from the Eastern US, when the satellite is over the mid-Atlantic, you can easily

work into Europe. By the way, RS-12 also now operates in Mode KA, which is 15 or 2 meters up and 10 meters down.

Another Mode A satellite possibility is RS-15 (uplink 145.858-145.898 MHz; downlink 29.354-29.394 MHz; beacon 29.352.5 MHz). Experienced operators say CW is very easy to hear on the downlink via RS-15. HQ staffer and experienced satellite op Steve Ford, WB8IMY, suggests that RS-15 is "definitely not a beginner bird for Mode A." The RS-16 satellite also is designed for Mode A, but it's not yet available for ham radio, and no one seems to know when it will be.

Never run more power than you need to get an adequate signal back through the transponder. In some cases, where the pass is directly overhead, you can make the bird while running just a few watts ERP (effective radiated power), although Ford says your signal might be on the weak side. But you don't want to engage in overkill and run too much power either. Keep in mind that even 10 W to a multi-element (gain) antenna can mean you're developing an ERP of several hundred watts. The rule of thumb is that, in no case should your signal through the transponder be louder than the satellite's beacon. A satellite's transponder only has so much power to go around, and it's "spread" among all users. A stronger-than-necessary uplink signal will suck power away from other users.

Budnik says he's experienced some QRM and transponder desensing from terrestrial simplex FM activity in the 2-meter uplink band. Stations should avoid operating terrestrial FM in those portions of the band set aside for satellite opera-

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## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

## First Tuesday

## Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd,  
Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by  
meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

## First Tuesday

## Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta.  
Meeting begins at 7:30pm. Talk In 146.88(-)

## First Wednesday

## HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta,  
Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

## First Thursday

## N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off of Memorial Dr. toward  
Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In -  
147.225(+)

## Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford  
Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting  
is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

## Second Wednesday

## North Fulton Radio League

Alpharetta Diner Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road,  
Alpharetta, Diner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In -  
145.47(-)

## Second Thursday

## Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting  
at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

## Second Saturday

## East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at  
10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

## 3rd THURSDAY

## Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins  
at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)



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# THE GARZETTE MARCH 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



(770)\*209-

**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on March 19 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

MARCH

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm (except Jul&Sep.)

Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364  
Johnson High School WCARS VEC  
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM

George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496  
N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM

Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC

Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC

Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56  
Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville,  
GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
W5YI-VEC  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks  
Trickum Rd, Lilburn  
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## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	50.135	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Tue	28.420	7:30PM	Ten Meter Traders Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655	Voice	
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.